



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 April 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to the Associated Press, Atlantic Southeast Airlines has grounded 60 jets for engine safety inspections. Only 50-seat Bombardier CRJ200 jets were affected. (See item [13](#))
- United Press International reports that spices produced by the Union International Food Co. plant in California have been linked to 42 possible salmonella cases in four states, including 33 in California. (See item [16](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste;](#)
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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping;](#)
[Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and](#)
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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) –
<http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *April 1, Bloomberg* – (International) **Shell resumes Soku gas supply to Nigeria LNG plant.** Royal Dutch Shell Plc. said it restarted output at its Soku natural gas plant in Nigeria that supplies a liquefied natural gas terminal. Shell Petroleum Development Co., which operates the plant, has kept the force majeure “declared on gas supply” to Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Ltd. “for the time being as we are currently ramping up production at the plant,” a Shell spokesman in The Hague said Wednesday. “The plant will run at reduced volumes for some time as we continue to take steps to return to full operation,” he said. Shell shut the Soku plant on November 27 to repair a pipeline tapped by gas condensate thieves. Some 170 illegal connections were removed on the condensate line, he said. Before the closure, the plant was processing about 1.1 billion

cubic feet a day of gas and 30,000 barrels a day of gas condensate, he said.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aOFAsGxmkM0w&refer=energy>

2. *April 1, Vallejo Times-Herald* – (California) **Gas stations given more time to reduce vapor release from pumps.** Air regulators in California have eased off threats to close gas stations that do not meet the April 1 deadline to upgrade pumps to reduce toxic vapors. But the technology's cost — about \$11,000 per pump — still threatens to put hundreds of stations out of business. Designed to prevent gas emissions from entering the atmosphere while drivers fuel up, the mandated equipment is expected to cut the release of 10 tons a day in smog-producing compounds. Local air districts can impose daily fines of as much as thousands of dollars, and shut down stations temporarily or permanently depending on levels of compliance. But under last-minute pressure from Sacramento, local air officials said no gas stations will be shut down, although fines still will be imposed. Even without the fines, state officials estimate that 5 percent of California's 11,000 gas stations will close because they cannot afford the upgrades. Most vulnerable are smaller, independently owned stations that have trouble getting financing in today's lending crisis. The regulation has been on the books since 2000, but many station owners waited until recently because of the expense, and possibly because they expected cheaper equipment to come on the market, said a spokesman for the California Air Resources Board.

Source: http://www.insidebayarea.com/dailyreview/localnews/ci_12039776

3. *March 31, KRQE 13 Albuquerque* – (New Mexico) **Propane tanker rollover closes U.S. 64.** An overturned propane tanker has forced the closure of U.S. Highway 64 between Taos and Angel Fire, according to New Mexico State Police. Propane did not leak from the 18-wheeler, and there was no fire, police reported. However, leaking diesel fuel is being cleaned up. The accident happened about 5:30 p.m. A spokesperson for the Taos Police Department said the highway likely will be closed all night. The propane must first be removed from the tank trailer before wrecker crews can attempt to right it, she said.

Source:

http://www.krqe.com/dpp/news/environment/environment_krqe_taos_propane_tanker_rollover_closes_us_64_200903312122

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Chemical Industry Sector

4. *April 1, Delaware Online* – (Delaware) **PFOA elevated in Dupont's Del. workers.** DuPont Co. workers at two Delaware locations have the chemical PFOA in their blood at levels far higher than the general public, according to documents submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency. The results, from workers at the company's Experimental Station near Wilmington and a DuPont Performance Elastomers plant in Newark, suggest blood levels of perfluorooctanoic acid that could cause health problems, according to a scientist with an environmental group that has sought to raise

the alarm on PFOA and related chemicals. PFOA, also known as C8, has been the subject of scientific and regulatory scrutiny in the last decade. The chemical is long-lived in the environment and has been found in the blood of people across the world at low levels. DuPont and other companies have committed to phasing out PFOA no later than 2015, under a voluntary EPA program. In November, DuPont tested nine workers at a plant in Tralee Industrial Park in Newark that makes Kalrez rubber parts, used for sealing applications. The testing was part of a voluntary program to evaluate DuPont industrial hygiene controls, and it was the first time workers at the facility had been tested, said a DuPont spokesman. The nine workers had an average PFOA level of 458 parts per billion — about 100 times higher than the level seen in an average American. The results ranged from a low of 137 parts per billion to a high of 1,240.

Source: <http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20090401/BUSINESS/904010346/1003>

5. *April 1, Environmental Protection* – (National) **New strategy to evaluate chemical toxicity.** On March 25, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Strategic Plan for Evaluating the Toxicity of Chemicals.” This strategic plan outlines a new scientific approach that will allow EPA to assess risks from many chemicals and mixtures by adopting new toxicity testing methods that use recent advances in molecular biology, genomics, and computational sciences. When fully implemented, EPA will be able to screen thousands of environmental chemicals quickly for potentially harmful effects. The strategic plan will allow EPA scientists to look at how children may react differently to the same chemicals as adults, thus providing better health protection for children.

Source: <http://www.eponline.com/articles/71453/>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *April 1, Louisville Courier-Journal* – (Kentucky) **Uranium plant buildings to be torn down.** Three idle buildings at the Paducah uranium plant will be decontaminated and demolished under a special \$79 million project paid for out of the federal economic stimulus program. The money for the work at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant is part of \$6 billion for environmental cleanup work in 12 states announced Tuesday by the Energy Secretary. The sprawling Paducah facility, which produces enriched uranium for use in nuclear power plants, is undergoing a lengthy and expensive cleanup after decades of chemical and radiological contamination. The stimulus money will be used to get rid of what is known as the C-340 metals plant, the C-410/420 feed plant, and the C-746-A East End smelter building. The demolition of the smelter originally was not scheduled for another 22 years; the dismantling of the metals building was slated for 2016; and the destruction of the feed plant was scheduled for 2012. Under the accelerated schedule made possible by the stimulus money, all three buildings will be gone by September 30, 2011, according to the Energy Department. Paducah’s enrichment facilities are operated by USEC Inc. A USEC spokeswoman said it was “premature to know if we will assist in doing any of this work for DoE.”

Source: <http://www.courier-journal.com/article/20090401/NEWS01/904010472/1008/NEWS01>

7. *March 31, ScienceDaily* – (National) **New RFID technology tracks and monitors nuclear materials.** Radio frequency identification (RFID) devices have widely been used for tracking for years; recently, scientists from the U.S. Department of Energy's Argonne National Laboratory have developed a unique tracking technology that also monitors the environmental and physical conditions of containers of nuclear materials in storage and transportation. The system is comprised of active transponders, or tags with long-life batteries (greater than 10 years), on each package, readers that collect information from the tags, control computer, and application software. The information is constantly updated and communicated via a secured network, thus decreasing the need for manned surveillance. "RFID technology is ideally suited for management of nuclear materials during both storage and transportation," said the Argonne senior nuclear engineer and RFID project manager. "Key information about the nuclear materials is acquired in real-time," he explained. The scientist explained that "information can be retrieved promptly by local and authorized off-site users via a secured network for action."

Source: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/03/090324151951.htm>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *April 1, Associated Press* – (International) **London bankers like subtle look amid G20 protests.** The normally suited-and-booted bankers of the City — the square mile which makes up London's main financial center — ditched their business attire for a more casual look, in an attempt to avoid confrontation with thousands of protesters who flooded the area. The change came after London's Chamber of Commerce suggested the City's denizens forego tailored suits and polished loafers for jeans and T-shirts on the day of protests ahead of the Group of 20 summit. Thousands of protesters converged in the sunshine in front of the Bank of England's imposing edifice, surrounded by a ring of police. The group G-20 Meltdown organized four parades representing the "four horsemen of the apocalypse" — war, climate chaos, financial crimes, and homelessness. Violence did flare: Windows were smashed at the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), which was part-nationalized by the British government after a massive bailout. And bankers themselves appear to have recently been targets. The Edinburgh home of the former head of RBS, who resigned in disgrace but with an annual pension of about 700,000 pounds, was attacked by vandals. In the United States, death threats have been made against AIG executives since a controversy broke over bonuses paid with taxpayer bailout money.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gnkuwYJAijtevm8GEnpxXXuo>

[bzjgD979NTDG0](#)

See also:

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/europe/04/01/g20.london.protests/index.html>

9. *April 1, Tyler Morning Telegraph* – (Texas) **Telephone scam collects banking information.** The Wood County Sheriff's Office is warning citizens of a computer/telephone scam involving a local bank. "Several cell phones and landline phones have received a message stating 'This is Mineola Community Bank and your ATM debit card needs to be reactivated.' The computer requests that you press 1 and this is when all of your information is gathered by the people attempting to scam you," the sheriff's office states.
Source: <http://www.tylerpaper.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20090401/NEWS01/904010311>
10. *April 1, Baxter Bulletin* – (Arkansas) **Telephone scam targets local bank customers.** Warnings of a telephone scam targeting customers of First National Bank & Trust of Mountain Home were issued by the bank on March 31. The First National director of marketing said the scam uses an automated telephone message to inform the call receivers of a security breach in their automated teller machine (ATM) cards and directs the receiver to key in their card numbers and personal identification numbers using the telephone key pad. The director said the scammers clearly do not have a list of the banks customers. The scam calls apparently go out randomly to many people in the area who are not customers of the bank with the intent of find a few of the targeted bank's customers who will unwittingly supply the card and ID numbers need to exploit a bank account. The director said it is important for First National account holders to remember that the bank will never call seeking account numbers and personal identification numbers. The bank already has that information. He said account holders should avoid furnishing personal identification numbers over the telephone.
Source: <http://www.baxterbulletin.com/article/20090401/NEWS01/904010317/1002>
11. *March 31, Reuters* – (National) **U.S. panel backs FDIC borrowing, credit card reforms.** A key U.S. Senate panel on March 31 backed proposals to reform credit card practices and increase the authority of regulators to borrow from the Treasury Department to deal with a slew of expected bank failures. By a 12-11 vote, the Senate Banking Committee narrowly approved a bill aimed at cleaning up unfair and deceptive practices by credit card companies criticized for surprising customers with fees and unilaterally changing terms. The bill, which was introduced by the committee's chairman, also contains two provisions aimed at increasing the borrowing authority of regulators, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. and the National Credit Union Administration. The provisions, introduced by a Senator from Idaho, would increase the FDIC's borrowing authority to \$100 billion from the current \$30 billion to deal with banks and increase the NCUA's limit to \$6 billion from \$100 million for nonprofit credit unions. The provisions also allow the agencies to exceed the new limits through the end of next year for up to \$500 billion for the FDIC and \$18 billion for the NCUA in the event of extraordinary circumstances. A House subcommittee is expected to take up

its own credit card bill on April 1.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/politicsNews/idUSTRE52U6D020090331>

12. *March 31, WMUR 9 Manchester* – (Massachusetts) **Protest dummy scare shuts down Boston Square.** Several streets around Kenmore Square in Boston were closed on March 31 after a group chained a protest dummy to a bank. The Boston Police Bomb Squad was called to the Commonwealth Avenue Bank of America after a dummy was chained to the bank door, locking customers inside, Boston station WCVB reported. The dummy, wearing a sweatshirt, jeans, and a sign about “climate chaos,” was pulled from the Bank of America building and dismantled. Mannequins for Climate Justice took responsibility for the incident in a press release to protest “the fossil fuel industry and its collaborators who are destroying the Earth.”

Source: <http://www.wmur.com/news/19054620/detail.html>

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Transportation Sector

13. *April 1, Associated Press* – (National) **Regional carrier ASA grounds jets for inspections.** Regional air carrier Atlantic Southeast Airlines (ASA) has grounded 60 jets for engine safety inspections. An ASA company spokeswoman said March 31 an internal audit revealed concerns about whether the planes’ engines had been inspected according the engine manufacturer’s recommendations. The company self-reported the problem to the Federal Aviation Administration and voluntarily grounded the planes so they could be re-inspected. Only 50-seat Bombardier CRJ200 jets were affected.

Source:

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5g6_gfRYxqOW56n1rxMvGo9AGbCggD979JNVG0

14. *March 31, Santa Monica Daily Press* – (California) **Big Blue Bus hit with hefty fine.** The California Air Resources Board on March 30 announced that it fined Santa Monica’s Big Blue Bus \$21,000 for failing to test, measure, and maintain records of smoke emissions from its diesel fleet in 2006 and 2007. Agencies are required to submit reports annually. The Big Blue Bus was also found to have violated the state’s fleet rule for transit agencies, which requires that entities keep diesel emissions no higher than 60 percent of 2005 levels. The agency exceeded the threshold on December 31, 2007. A spokeswoman for the Air Resources Board pointed to a list of groups that have been fined in the past several weeks, including Temecula Valley Unified School District, which was slapped with a \$18,500 penalty for failing to inspect its diesel trucks; the Ventura County Transportation Commission, which will have to pay \$5,000 for excess diesel emissions; and Tulare County Area Transit, which was hit with a \$5,250 fine for air quality violations.

Source: http://www.smdp.com/Articles-c-2009-03-30-51732.113116_Big_Blue_Bus_hit_with_hefty_fine_.html

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Postal and Shipping Sector

15. *March 31, WSGW 790 Saginaw* – (Michigan) **Suspicious package injures postal worker.** Authorities in Genesee County, Michigan say a postal worker experienced eye irritation after coming in contact with a leaky package. The incident occurred shortly before 3:00 p.m. on March 31 at the Montrose Post Office. Area police and fire personnel responded to the scene along with a hazardous materials team. An investigation is ongoing. There was no immediate word on that postal worker's condition.

Source: <http://wsgw.com/Suspicious-Package-Injures-Postal-Worker/4118700>

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *April 1, United Press International* – (California) **Calif. plant's spice linked to salmonella.** California health officials added Uncle Chen pepper Tuesday to a list of spices from a Union City plant that may carry salmonella. Union International Food Co. spices have been linked to 42 possible salmonella cases in four states, including 33 in California, the state Department of Public Health said. The company's product line includes spices for Asian foods. White and black pepper sold under the Uncle Chen brand name was added to the list Tuesday. Last week, the department warned of risk from spices sold under the Lian How name, including black, white, and cayenne pepper, paprika, chopped onion, onion powder, garlic, whole peppers, curry powder, mustard powder, and wasabi powder. Union International has initiated a voluntary recall of the spices.

Source:

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2009/04/01/Calif_plants_spice_linked_to_salmonella/UPI-32191238558454/

17. *March 31, Associated Press* – (South Carolina) **USDA recalls 3,000 pounds of meat from SC plant.** Federal officials have closed a South Carolina meat processing plant and requested a recall of nearly 3,000 pounds of meat that were incorrectly labeled. A U.S. Agriculture Department spokeswoman said Monday that the recalled meat from Halal International Processing in York poses a minimal health risk to consumers. Authorities say some products that were labeled poultry were actually other types of meat. The company also operated during hours that prevented some inspections. The company manager says the company is reassessing procedures at the plant. The recall includes all frozen meat and poultry items produced from April 3, 2008 to March 7. Operations at the plant have been suspended since March 27.

Source: <http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9790BIO1.htm>

18. *March 31, Reuters* – (North Dakota) **Snow and floods threaten North Dakota cattle herd.** A deadly combination of floods, heavy snow, and cold in the midst of calving season threatens to thin North Dakota's cattle herd. Calves, especially newborns, are in danger of hypothermia and some farmers are struggling to get feed and water to

livestock, said the North Dakota Agriculture Department. The swollen Red River Valley has few livestock farms, but western North Dakota — where most of the cattle herd is based — has also seen flooding and heavy snow. So far, there have been only isolated reports of several hundred cattle deaths. A veterinarian and associate professor at North Dakota State University said it was impossible to gauge how high losses will be. Ranchers are in the middle of calving season and many do not own barns to shelter their animals. If heavy snow and cold weather last long enough, cattle deaths “could be catastrophic,” he said. He estimates with current forecasts, 15,000 to 25,000 head of cattle may die. Swollen rivers are also worrying crop farmers. The U.S. Department of Agriculture expects flooding to delay planting two weeks to April 29 this year, said a program specialist. He said he cannot revise his estimate of 1 million unplanted acres until the snow melt is underway.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idUSTRE52U79Y20090331>

19. *March 31, Associated Press* – (Oklahoma) **Counties placed under fire ant quarantine.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has added 12 more counties in Oklahoma to those under a state and federal Imported Fire Ant quarantine. State Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry officials say the quarantine includes soil, plants with soil attached, grass sod, used soil moving equipment, hay, and straw. Those items can not be shipped out of the counties under quarantine until cleared by state or federal inspectors. The new counties under quarantine are Atoka, Coal, Cotton, Garvin, Jackson, Jefferson, LeFlore, Murray, Pontotoc, Pushmataha, Stephens, and Tillman. Counties previously included in the quarantine are Bryan, Jefferson, McCurtain, Marshall, Carter, Choctaw, Comanche, Johnston, and Love.

Source: <http://www.kswo.com/Global/story.asp?S=10102204>

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Water Sector

20. *April 1, WRCB 3 Chattanooga* – (Tennessee) **Water being tested after sewage spill in Bradley County.**

A thick substance found in the aftermath of a sewage leak in Bradley County is being tested. Officials say the substance caused a wastewater alarm to fail for a 22-hour period, between March 17 and 18. It released about 647,000 gallons of raw sewage in to a wetland area. Officials say the water is safe. They say rainwater diluted the waste before it entered the creek.

Source: <http://www.wrcbtv.com/Global/story.asp?S=10108198>

21. *April 1, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Mound receives \$20M to complete cleanup.** The environmental cleanup of the old Mound atomic plant got new life Tuesday with the announcement that the Federal Government will provide \$20 million in economic stimulus money to finish removing radioactive and chemical contamination at a plant landfill. The move will finally enable the Mound to shake off its reputation as a contaminated Cold War weapons site and reinvent itself as a high-tech industrial park, said the head of the Miamisburg Mound Community Improvement Corp. (MMCIC), which operates the park. A U.S. Senator from Ohio said the Mound project will reduce the possibility of contamination to the Buried Valley Aquifer. The government has spent

\$1 billion cleaning up Mound, but a stubborn area of radioactive and chemical contamination remains. The Defense Department, which owns the plant, and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency said the landfill did not require a cleanup, but local officials demanded one. The MMCIC head said it will take about a year to complete the project.

Source:

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/b/content/oh/story/business/2009/04/01/ddn040109mound.html>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *March 31, HealthDay News* – (National) **Study casts doubt on influential hospital safety survey.** A new study casts doubt on a hospital safety rating conducted by the Leapfrog Group, a nonprofit business coalition. Hospitals ranked in the highest quartile on the safety survey had about the same rate of in-hospital deaths as those in the lowest quartile, according to a study in the April 1 issue of the Journal of the American Medical Association. The Leapfrog Hospital Survey is a widely publicized report that assesses the safety, quality, and efficiency of care at 1,200 U.S. hospitals, according to the Leapfrog Group's Web site. In 2004, Leapfrog added a fourth measure: the Safe Practices Survey, which asks hospitals to supply detailed information about 27 measures of hospital safety, including how well it promotes a safety culture, ensures an adequate nursing workforce, provides anti-coagulation services, and requires hand washing. Hospitals are then ranked in quartiles based on their self-reported answers. However, hospital administrators have complained that the Safe Practices Survey is too cumbersome and the questions too vague to assess safety.

Source: <http://www.healthday.com/Article.asp?AID=625582>

23. *March 31, Computerworld* – (California) **Kaiser fires 15 workers for snooping in woman's medical records.** A Kaiser Permanente hospital located in a Los Angeles suburb has fired 15 employees and reprimanded eight others for improperly accessing the personal medical records of a California woman. The unauthorized accessing of her electronic records at the medical center in Bellflower, California violated a California law designed to safeguard the privacy of health care data, according to a Kaiser spokesman, who said the snooping incidents have been reported to the California Department of Public Health. The improper activities were discovered as a result of increased network monitoring procedures that the hospital implemented in anticipation of huge public interest in her, he said. Data-snooping incidents such as the one at the Kaiser Permanente Bellflower Medical Center highlight the lack of adequate security controls that hospitals and other entities in the health care industry have for protecting patient records, said the founder and chair of Patient Privacy Rights, a watchdog group in Austin. "The state of health IT access controls is abysmal, atrocious and outdated," she said. She claimed that what happened at Kaiser "can and does happen" on a broad scale at hospitals across the United States because of their continued reliance on "primitive" security controls that have not been updated in decades. Unlike in industries such as the financial services sector, where role-based access control is the norm rather

than the exception, a wide range of workers at health care providers can get access to patient data whether they need to have such access or not, she said. Large enterprises such as Kaiser, she noted, can have thousands of individuals with the ability to access sensitive data about patients.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=Knowledge+Center&articleId=9130827&taxonomyId=1&pageNumber=1>

24. *March 31, ProPublica* – (North Dakota) **Disaster preparedness pays off in North Dakota.** Between 500 and 600 North Dakota hospital, nursing home, and assisted living residents were evacuated last week, according to a state public health department employee working in emergency operations. The North Dakota evacuations faced some glitches, but thus far no patient deaths have been attributed to the transfers, and two officials in different states interviewed by ProPublica said the process ran like a “well-oiled machine.” Health workers attribute their success to flexibility, days of advance planning, and strong collaboration between health facilities and local, state, and federal government, which was bolstered by twice-daily video conferences.

Source: <http://www.propublica.org/article/disaster-preparedness-pays-off-in-North-Dakota-20090331>

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Government Facilities Sector

25. *April 1, Associated Press* – (District of Columbia) **Pakistani Taliban threatens attack on White House.** Pakistan’s Taliban chief has claimed responsibility for a deadly assault on a police academy in Pakistan, saying he wanted to retaliate for U.S. missile attacks on the militant bases on the border with Afghanistan. The Pakistani Taliban chief, who has a \$5 million U.S. bounty on his head, also vowed to “amaze everyone in the world” with an attack on Washington or even the White House. The FBI, however, said he had made similar threats previously and there was no indication of anything imminent. The Pakistani Taliban chief, who gave a flurry of media interviews on March 31, has no record of actually striking targets abroad, although he is suspected of being behind a 10-man cell arrested in Barcelona in January 2008 for plotting suicide attacks in Spain.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5hkiMxbH0BqgpWA2ZG6VD6wVTmAD979FF500>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *April 1, Detroit Freepress* – (Michigan) **Detroit Fire phones are out; 911 is fine.** Phone lines for the Detroit Fire Department were not working on the morning of April 1, but the emergency 911 calling system was unaffected, officials said. An internal technical problem has been affecting phone communication between the central office

and fire stations around the city since about 1 a.m., a local official said, but 911 is working, and dispatchers can send out help using their emergency radio system.

Source:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20090401/NEWS01/90401037/1003/Detroit+Fire+phones+are+out++911+is+fine>

27. *March 31, KPRC 2 Houston* – (Texas) **Houston firefighters recover after wreck.** Two firefighters and a cyclist remained hospitalized a day after two fire trucks collided in a Montrose-area intersection, KPRC Local 2 reported. Eleven people, including nine firefighters, were injured in the collision on March 30. A Houston Fire Department pumper truck weighing 42,000 pounds broadsided an 80,000-pound ladder truck with enough force to lift the ladder truck off the ground. The ladder truck rolled, hit a woman on a bicycle, snapped a utility pole, and landed on top of a car. Five firefighters were on the ladder truck and four were on the pumper truck. They were all injured. Investigators said the ladder truck was in the middle of the intersection attempting to make a turn when it was hit by the pumper truck. Fire officials said there is an emergency signal on Westheimer Road that holds the light for emergency vehicles. Investigators are working to determine if the signal was used.

Source: [http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Houston-Firefighters-Recover-After-Wreck/46\\$63285](http://cms.firehouse.com/web/online/News/Houston-Firefighters-Recover-After-Wreck/46$63285)

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Information Technology

28. *April 1, SC Magazine* – (International) **Phishing accounts for half of all malware.**

Phishing attacks are now accounting for over 50 percent of all virus threats. According to research by Network Box, this is the highest percentage of malware so far this year, up from 33 percent in February. An Internet security analyst at Network Box said: “A poor economy means greater numbers of disgruntled employees, desperate individuals trying to make money and increased opportunity as we become more technologically enabled. “It really is time to review the basics of corporate security. Whenever an economy is depressed, the instances of cybercrime, just like burglaries, increase. Time spent now on educating employees, checking your internet use policy, and applying some common sense security measures will pay dividends through the coming months.”

Source: <http://www.scmagazineuk.com/Phishing-accounts-for-half-of-all-malware/article/129862/>

29. *March 31, IDG News Service* – (International) **Conficker activation passes quietly, but threat isn’t over.** An expected activation of the Conficker.c worm on April 1 passed without incident, despite sensationalized fears that the Internet itself might be affected, but security researchers said users are not out of the woods yet. “These guys have no designs, I think, on taking down the infrastructure, because that would separate them from their victims,” said a threat researcher at antivirus vendor Trend Micro Inc., calling the technology and design of Conficker.c as “pretty much state of the art.” “They want to keep the infrastructure up and in place to make it much harder for good guys to counter and mitigate what they have orchestrated,” he said. Conficker.c was

programmed to establish a link from infected host computers with command-and-control servers at midnight on April 1. To reach these control servers, Conficker.c generates a list of 50,000 domain names and then selects 500 domain names to contact. That process has started, researchers said. Exactly how many computers are infected with Conficker.c is not known, but the estimated number of systems infected by all variants of the Conficker worm exceeds 10 million, making this one of the largest botnets ever seen. While infected computers have started reaching out to command servers as expected, nothing untoward has happened. “We have observed that Conficker is reaching out, but so far none of the servers they are trying to reach are serving any new malware or any new commands,” said a security strategist at McAfee Avert Labs in Germany.

Source:

<http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=009130849>

30. *March 31, DarkReading* – (International) **Attack of the mini-botnets.** Big-name botnets like Kraken/Bobax, Srizbi, Rustock, the former Storm, and even the possible botnet-in-waiting, Conficker have gained plenty of notoriety, but it is the smaller and less conspicuous ones not seen that are doing the most damage in the enterprise. These mini-botnets range in size from tens to thousands versus the hundreds of thousands, or even millions, of bots that the biggest botnets deploy. They are typically specialized and built to target an organization or person, stealing corporate and personal information, often without a trace. They do not attract the attention of the big spamming botnets that cast a wide net and generate lots of traffic; instead they strike quietly, under the radar. “There is definitely specialization [in botnets] these days,” says a senior director of malware research for SecureWorks. “There are botnets designed for fraud, and they have been around for a while and do not seem to cross over [with the bigger spamming botnets],” he says. These mini-botnets specialize in identity theft, fraud, and stealing corporate information, and are much more difficult to spot and infiltrate than a big spamming botnet. “We have to rely on the few anecdotal instances, where we have managed to get a look at the back-end,” the director says. The vice president of engineering at Damballa says most of the bots his company finds within its enterprise clients’ networks are from obscure botnets, not the big spamming zombie networks. Spam-bot infections account for only about 2 percent of the compromised bot machines Damballa has uncovered, while 20 percent are bots used for targeted, malicious purposes, like data theft or fraud, he says. The other 75 to 80 percent are from blended threats, multipurpose Trojans, downloaders, and worms for various purposes.

Source:

<http://www.darkreading.com/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=216402026&subSection=Attacks/breaches>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

31. *March 31, Salisbury Post* – (North Carolina) **Time Warner: Power outage caused interruption in cable service.** On March 30 at 9:24 p.m., all the Time Warner channels (except local feeds) went into freeze frame for close to two hours. Whatever was on a cable channel at the time of a Duke Energy power outage remained locked on that channel during the service interruption. The director of media relations for Time Warner Cable in the Carolinas said the service interruption occurred when power was lost to Time Warner's main service site in Salisbury. When outages to the site occur, backup generators are supposed to kick in, but those generators did not work the night of March 30. It took until about 11:30 p.m. for the generator problem to be fixed, she said. During the restoration efforts, customers may have received a signal for awhile but then lost it again. Only the subscribers served from the Salisbury station were affected.

Source: <http://www.salisburypost.com/Area/033109-web-cable-interrupted>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *March 31, Oakland Tribune* – (California) **Oakland building evacuated after attorney's office receives suspicious package.** A suspicious package that forced the evacuation of a 12-story office building Tuesday after it was delivered to the office of a civil rights attorney turned out to be some wires and part of a radio, the attorney said. Hundreds of people who work in the office building at 7677 Oakport St. were evacuated for about three hours Tuesday while the Alameda County bomb squad worked to determine if the small package was a bomb. The attorney said a man delivered the package to his 11th-floor office about 11 a.m., telling his staff it was a "tracking device because he was being followed." The attorney's staff members tried to locate the man to ask him to take the package but could not find him. When they did find him, he refused to take back the package, said the attorney, who was working from home at the time of the incident. He said the man left his identification in his office and police were able to determine the man was someone known for making "terrorist threats" to others in the past. It was not known late Tuesday if he was arrested because police were not available for comment. Employees on the eighth through 12th floors were immediately ordered out of the building. When the bomb squad arrived at 12:30 p.m., crews ordered the remainder of the employees out of the building. By 2:10 p.m., the evacuation order was canceled.

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/crime/ci_12037813

33. *March 31, St. Augustine Record* – (Florida) **Possible WWII-era bomb detonated.** Water sprayed up higher than a two-story building Monday morning on Ponte Vedra Beach as demolition experts detonated what was thought to be a rusty and corroded World War II depth charge, according to a St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJCSO) spokesman. An adult called the sheriff's office on Sunday around dusk after finding a

device on the beach that “looked odd,” he said. Officials delayed detonation until Monday morning, he said. Deputies stayed on duty overnight to keep away the curious. Sheriff’s office bomb technicians who were trained in the military said the device “looked like it could be a depth charge,” he said. A U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was called in and agreed it also appeared to be a World War II device. A Navy spokesman later said explosive experts told him that there was nothing explosive inside and questioned whether it was a depth charge. SJCSO and Navy bomb disposal teams worked together, clearing the area and placing sand bags around the device before wrapping charges around it. They then waited until the tide came in before exploding the object. Deputies evacuated two adjacent condominium complexes near the Cabana Club and closed Ponte Vedra Boulevard while the device was detonated.

Source: http://www.staugustine.com/stories/033109/news_033109_003.shtml

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *April 1, WHSV 3 Harrisonburg* – (Virginia) **Prescribed burn at George Washington National Forest.** Those driving towards West Virginia on April 1 may have noticed some plumes of smoke rising in western Rockingham County. A prescribed burn of almost 2,000 acres took place in the George Washington National Forest near Reddish Knob. Prescribed fires burn the underbrush on the forest floor to reduce the likelihood of brush fires. In addition, some plants need the fire’s heat to regenerate. The fire was a one day event.

Source: <http://www.whsv.com/news/headlines/42227902.html>

35. *March 31, Associated Press* – (California) **Rockfall closes Yosemite trail near Half Dome.** Officials say no one was injured in a giant rockfall near Yosemite National Park’s iconic Half Dome, but it did close a trail. The tumbling boulders unleashed so much fury before daybreak March 28 that it registered as a magnitude 2.5 earthquake. The debris fell into Tenaya Canyon and buried the southern portion of the Mirror Lake loop trail. The park’s geologist said the rockfall was reminiscent of one in 1996 that created an air blast that felled thousands of trees, killing one tourist. The avalanche at 5:26 a.m. from Ahwiyah Point was the largest in 10 years.

Source: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2009/03/31/state/n133315D19.DTL&tsp=1>

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Dams Sector

36. *March 31, Times-Picayune* – (Louisiana) **Temporary pumps at Orleans, London, and 17th Street canals safe, investigation shows.** Yet another investigation has determined that the temporary floodgates and pumps on three New Orleans drainage canals are safe so long as they are adequately maintained and ultimately replaced by permanent systems as planned by the Army Corps of Engineers. The new report is an “independent engineering assessment” prepared by Parsons Corp. for the Defense Department’s

inspector general. That official, in the last Presidential Administration, ordered the latest review after several previous investigations failed to satisfy the federal Office of Special Counsel as to the adequacy of 40 hydraulic pumps installed that were on the 17th Street, Orleans, and London Avenue canals. Parsons found that previously documented shortcomings in pump testing at the Moving Water factory and on site in New Orleans were subsequently rectified, and that the pumps were re-tested, found adequate, and even successfully operated last year during hurricanes Gustav and Ike. But Parsons said the Corps should keep up with the inherently high-maintenance demands of temporary pumps and that the interim pumping systems be replaced with permanent ones on a timely basis. The report did not spell out a time frame. The Corps now plans to have permanent pump stations in place on the canals by 2013. Additionally, there is a local push to force the Corps to construct different, more robust pumping systems than those the agency currently plans to build. If Congress orders and finances that change, Corps officials say it will take even longer to get permanent systems in place.

Source:

http://www.nola.com/news/index.ssf/2009/03/temporary_pumps_at_orleans_lon.html

37. *March 30, ABC News* – (International) **Jakarta dam death toll may top 200.** The final death toll from a collapsed dam disaster in Jakarta could move past 200. Ninety-eight people are already confirmed dead, but 132 more still cannot be accounted for. When the dam collapsed on Friday at 2:00 a.m., the equivalent of 800 Olympic swimming pools of water was poured down a hill into a tightly packed residential area within 10 minutes. At least 400 families have been displaced. A Dutch water expert with Delft Hydraulics says a decade of decentralization in Indonesia has led to a neglect of routine maintenance. “What happened in the last 10 years is that it became a little confusing who is really responsible for these types of lakes and who really is responsible for the checking of the dikes and the maintenance.” The high-ground dam which burst its banks was originally built to help control city floods. In recent years, that original function has been dangerously ignored as the lake was kept full for recreational uses.

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2009/03/30/2529353.htm?section=world>

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